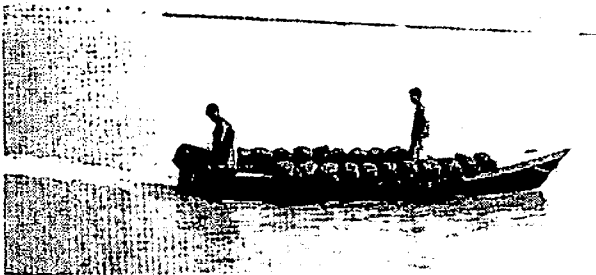


Duxbury Clipper, Wednesday, November 27, 1996

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## Summer Quahog Relay

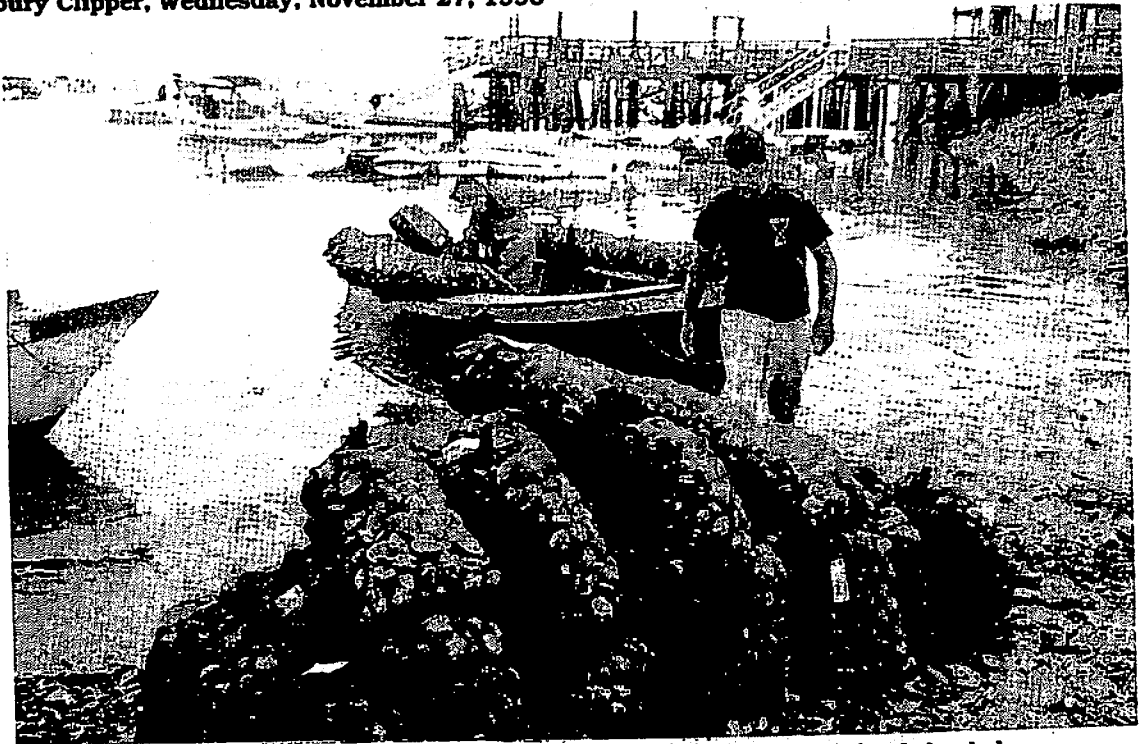
The Harbormaster/Coastal Natural Resources Department completed the 1996 Quahog relay as part of the shellfish propagation/cultivation program on Nov. 21. This year's program relayed 500 bushels of slightly biologically contaminated Quahog from Fairhaven, MA. This program is allowed under strict state guidelines and control. These shellfish were then broadcast into Duxbury's clean waters in closed areas. These areas are to remain closed allowing the shellfish to clean themselves. Depending on the time of the year, the shellfish cleanse themselves in a brief period of time. Before these areas



Off loading bushels.

can be reopened for harvest, the shellfish must go through extensive testing by the Commonwealth of Mass., Division of Marine Fisheries.

Duxbury's shellfish relay's are developed in 2 ways. Both require state approval and the closing of the areas to shellfish harvesting. The put and take program, the department relays shellfish primarily into high harvest impact areas. We normally allow them to set at least one spawning season, monitor and test them, and then when appropriate, reopen the beds and allow them to be harvested.



Assistant Harbormasters Peter Smey and William Weems load bushels of quahogs into work boats.

The 2nd method is extremely effective for shellfish propagation. The Department selects tidal flats that are remote, but strategically located to take advantage of tide and currents and most likely within the vicinity of high harvest impact areas. The shellfish are broadcast within these areas for the sole purpose of spawning, to rely on these shellfish as brood stock for future generations. This technique will reseed tremendous areas of Duxbury's shore, if left alone to do so. Normally the department institutes both techniques within the annual shellfish relay programs. Both are very effective in insuring

this valuable natural resource. As an interesting note, did you know Duxbury was not home to the quahog until 1906 when relays very similar to these took place?

Today the quahog is one of our most abundant and popular shellfish found and harvested in Duxbury. The monies used to purchase these shellfish that have included other shellfish, soft shell (steamers), quahog, scallops and oysters, comes from the Nelson Saunders Memorial Fund, that town meeting approved for shellfish propagation. Nelson was a local resident who loved and enjoyed Duxbury Bay and all she had to offer. Donations can be made to this fund through the town treasurer.